

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02246 071136Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /080 W

-----071503Z 054415 /53

R 070939Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2330

INFOR AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, TW, UR

SUBJ: IVORY COAST AND USSR/CHINA

1. IN MEETING WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS ANOMA KANIE MARCH 1, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER RECENT VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU, FIRST COMMUNIST CHIEF OF STATE TO VISIT IVORY COAST, WAS LIKELY TO BE FOLLOWED BY ANY CHANGE IN GOIC RELATIONS WITH EITHER USSR OR CHINA.

2. KANIE SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED 1969 SUSPENSION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND USSR WAS A MISTAKE, THE RUPTURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WAS ALWAYS A MISTAKE SINCE THIS CUT OFF CONTACT AND HENCE ANY CHANGE FOR INFLUENCE OR EXAHANGE OF VIEWS. EVEN IF COUNTRIES DISAGREED, SAID KANIE, THEY SHOULD TALK ABOUT THEIR DIFFERENCES. KANIE SAID PRESENT SITUATION WAS AN ANOMALY WHEREIN IVORY COAST IGNORED ONE OF THE WORLD SUPER-PWERS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IVORY COAST WAS SLOWLY MOVING TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND THAT RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WOULD COME SOONER OR LATER, BUT GIVEN HOUPHOUET'S DISTRUST OF THE COMMUNISTS IT
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PAGE 02 ABIDJA 02246 071136Z

WOULD PROBABLY BE LATER.

3. QUESTIONED ON GOIC CHINA POLICY, KANIE SIGHED AND SAID "FRANKLY THE PRESENT POLICY IS A THORN IN OUR SIDE". HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION WAS VERY AWKWARD, HE SAID HE FORESAW NO CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IVORY COAST SERIOUSLY BELIEVED ("AS DOES THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION" HE ADDED) THERE IS SUCH A

THING AS MORALITY IN FOREIGN POLICY. IVORY COAST WOULD HONOR
ITS COMMITMENTS TO ITS OLD FRIENDS EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SOMETIMES
DIFFICULT. "WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU AMERICANS TO WORK OUT A
NORMALIZATION ARRANGEMENT WITH CHINA AND TAIWAN," HE SAID. IN
THE ABSENCE OF THIS, KANIE REPEATED HE BELIEVED THERE WILL BE
NO CHANGE IN IVORY COAST CHINA POLICY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
STEARNS

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